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For Immediate Release:

## **Grand Opening Celebration Slated for Canal Winchester's New Water Treatment Plant**

CANAL WINCHESTER– The Village of Canal Winchester is excited to introduce the new Roy Crist Water Treatment Complex. Members of the media are invited to join Village officials, administration and guests at a grand opening event to celebrate this innovative water treatment plant, which now serves Village residents. Event details are as follows:

**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2007

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** Roy Crist Water Treatment Plant  
223 North High Street  
Canal Winchester, OH 43110

### **Project Overview**

Canal Winchester's old water treatment facility was near capacity and it was recognized that the existing plant would not be able to fulfill the needs of the Village much longer. Therefore, Village officials decided that it would be in the best interest of its citizens to construct a new plant that would be able to accommodate the residential and commercial growth Canal Winchester had been experiencing in recent years. Now able to handle up to 2 million gallons of water per day (MGD), the new water treatment system was designed with growth in mind, and can be expanded to handle up to 4 MGD per day if and when this is needed.

With all projects involved totaling \$5.4 million, the plant now incorporates everything from pressure filters to ion exchange softeners. Other notable components of this project include a new well field and wells, a 3,400-foot, 16" raw water line to carry water from the well field to the plant, and a 3,500-foot, 12" waterline on Busey Road to provide an emergency connection with Pickerington.

Benefits of the new plant include the following:

- Increased production, allowing the Village to meet current water needs and expand its service area
- An updated treatment process, giving the Village better control of water quality
- A more efficient operation, resulting in less staff hours needed
- Reduced maintenance needs

- Less byproducts through the treatment operation as well as no lime sludge

Outside funding was essential to the success of this project, and thanks to the assistance of Canal Winchester's many supporters, the Village was able to reduce the financial burden placed on its residents through alternative funding sources. One such way was through a low-interest loan provided through the Ohio EPA which made it possible for the Village to charge its residents lower rates. Additionally, United States Congressman David Hobson's office assisted Canal Winchester in obtaining a \$477,900 STAG grant from the U.S. EPA.

### **Background**

Constructed in 1917, Canal Winchester's original waterworks facility opened 90 years ago to serve the needs of the Village's 800 residents. At a cost of \$30,000, which was funded through two bonds approved by Village citizens, the original water plant included a well, pumps, clear well and the water tower adjacent to the plant. This plant delivered water directly from the well to residents, with almost no treatment performed on the water.

By 1933, it was reported that many Village residents had turned to rain water, cisterns, private wells and other sources to satisfy their personal water needs. To help eliminate the need for alternative water sources, the water plant was expanded in 1934 and lime and soda softening facilities were added.

Over the next several decades Canal Winchester's water plant saw many more changes. During the 1950s, a 100,000 gallon elevated storage tank was constructed on South High Street. In the 1970s, in response to an industrial park that was developed in the western portion of the Village, a water main was extended along Groveport Road and a 150,000 elevated storage tank was constructed on Gender Road.

In the early 1980s, Canal Winchester became the first village in Ohio to receive a grant from the Center of Disease Control to add facilities to fluoridate its water. Then, in 1985, a water treatment plant improvement plan created in 1961 was revived when the Village's Board of Public Affairs authorized expansion of the plant for the first time since 1934. This expansion improved virtually every aspect of the plant, including increasing its production capacity from 350,000 to 700,000 gallons of water per day.

The Roy Crist Water Treatment Facility was officially dedicated in 1987, and Roy Crist, who served as the Village's water superintendent for more than 30 years, was on hand for the dedication ceremony. One year later, this facility was declared an "American Water Landmark" by the American Water Works Association.

On July 11, 2006, a groundbreaking was held for a more modern facility that would be able to accommodate up to two million gallons of water per day. On July 31, 2007, the new plant became a reality when Canal Winchester's Division of Water began serving residents from the new Roy Crist Water Treatment Complex.

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